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*Approved*

## Town of Vernon

# Open Space Task Force



Minutes of Special Meeting March 18, 2019

**Meeting Location:** *The meeting was held in Town Hall, 14 Park Place, Council Chambers.*

### **Call to order and seating:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by acting chairman Ann Letendre. Members present were Tom Ouellette, Karl Hasel, Ginny Gingras, and Ann Letendre.

### **1.0 Approval of Minutes**

Draft minutes of December 17, 2018 were approved; motion by Karl, second by Tom.

### **2.0 Old Business**

#### **2.1 Priority Parcel Preservation:**

##### **Farmland Preservation – Strong Farm**

Paperwork is still in process at DEEP, NRCS and CFT. Most recent discussion with CFT indicates a closing is expected by August 1, 2019. Easement language has been resolved and is in the AGs office awaiting approval. A conservation plan is being done by Adam Maikshilo of NRCS. CFT has arranged for an updated appraisal. The rezone back to R-27, status of property at the time of grant application, was approved by P&Z at their Feb. 21 meeting.

**Petrin property** – Appraisal completed in July. No further action.

**Clark Farm** - The property was put in family trust. Next steps for OSTF are TBD.

#### **2.2 Open Space & Farmland Preservation Funding - Update**

**Local Funding** – no change

**State Funding** -No applications were submitted for the Feb. 19, 2019 grant round.

### **3.0 New Business –**

#### **3.1 Revision 4, Open Space Plan Update, March 4, 2019**

OSTF reviewed the updated Open Space Plan, Revision 4, which incorporated the changes discussed at the December 18, 2018 meeting. Goals, natural resource priorities, and priority parcels were validated and reaffirmed. Changes to the text included an introductory paragraph providing background and changes to the document. The document was reorganized such that the specific parcel listings were provided as an appendix, as well as the natural resource inventory. Update to priority parcel status was included. Four priority parcels have been preserved since 2005: Tancanhoosen LLC, 450 acres; Gunther Family Partnership, 4.6 acres; one of the four John Talcott Trustee parcels known as Talcottville Gorge, 20 acres; and Strong Farm, 51 acres. One parcel is no longer available, listed as Falkenstein, 36 acres.

Portions of two parcels along the Hockanum River are in progress of preservation, as part of development projects.

Motion was made by Tom, second by Karl to approve Revision 4, Proposed Open Space System”, March 4, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

- 3.2 Open Space Inventory – SustainableCT Template.** The OSTF reviewed the detailed open space inventory, prepared by Ann using the excel template required for Action 2.4.1 of the Sustainable program. The list contained 128 discrete parcels, and showed that Vernon has 20% of its acreage preserved in perpetuity. Discussion of the issue regarding how to label land trust properties that are not legally preserved in perpetuity ensued. Advice will be sought from SustainableCT. Ann will revise the inventory accordingly.

Motion to approve the inventory was made by Karl, second by Ginny, motion passed unanimously.

#### **4.0 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM. Motion by Tom, second by Ginny.

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Ann Letendre, acting Chairperson**